



ART: MICHAEL H.



OCTOBER 2011 ISSUE

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Dear friends,

As a New Englander it is incredibly challenging for me not to begin all letters with a mention of the weather. The seasons are changing yet again and the Autumn is coming into full swing. For those of you who do not have seasonal change or who are stuck in the hole, let me tell you that the world is indeed still spinning and we are still fighting for the day when you get to breathe the fresh air of freedom and watch the leaves change into vibrant reds, oranges, and yellows!

The second Monday of October is traditionally called "Columbus Day." However, there is a very large grassroots movement that has retitled and repurposed "Columbus Day" as Indigenous Peoples Day! Christopher Columbus did not discover America, he brought disease, violence, homophobia, prisons, and economic exploitation to the land. There were millions of people here before this European colonizer came to what we now call the Americas. Columbus is not a person for us to celebrate. The resistance and survival of Indigenous People, however, always deserves celebration and honor, repurposing this one day is simply a small piece of how we all can join in the struggle to keep the lives of Native People recognized.

Part of honoring Indigenous People's Day is recognizing the ways colonization and violence against Native People is still occurring today. Jamaal Bell, a columnist for the Huffington Post, examined some of the ways the prison industrial complex targets American Indians, "The incarceration rate of Native Americans is 38% higher than the national rate. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights attributes this higher rate to differential treatment by the criminal justice system, lack of access to adequate counsel and racial profiling. One example: in South Dakota, Native Americans make up 8 percent of the state's population, they compose 22 percent of the state's male prison population. Native women compose 35 percent of female prison population, according to a Dakota-Lakota-Nakota Human Rights Advocacy Coalition Report. Law enforcement agents arrest American Indians and Alaskan Natives at twice the rate of the greater U.S. population for violent and property crimes. On average, American Indians receive longer sentences than non-Indians for crimes."

This is also an essential time to tell stories of Indigenous resistance. Ask yourself, what do you know of Native Peoples' resistance? In November of 1969 members of the Indians of All Tribes took Alcatraz Island back into Indigenous control. Alcatraz had functioned as a federal prison until 1963. This Native community secured control of Alcatraz for 19 months! During that time they took care of their community, resisted attempted take-overs, and demanded changes to policy by the United States government. The take-over of Alcatraz was a reigniting of a movement that then moved forward with 74 more take-overs of Federal land, declaring it rightfully Native Territory. The fight for Native Sovereignty is far from over, and the struggle certainly continues.

How can you honor the resistance of Indigenous People where you are? If you are a Native person, how can you pay tribute to those ancestors who fought on this land before you? Take a moment to talk to your bunky or to someone else on the block who might not know the information you've read here. Ask the people in the library if they have books about Native people, books that are actually written by Native people, not simply history books that assume American Indians are somehow gone. For this Indigenous Peoples Day celebrate a movement that we can see as deeply interconnected! Every year I see the same sign at demonstrations, "homophobia is not native to these shores" neither is incarceration! So as we honor the legacy of Indigenous resistance let us do so while we remember that once there were no prisons, that day will come again.

In love and solidarity,
Jason

This is my coming out letter

Dear Black & Pink,

As I was growing up, I knew I was different. Different because I was looking at the same sex as me and dating the other sex. I decided to bury these feelings way deep down. Those feelings stayed there for more than 20 years. Every now and again the feelings would surface, only to be buried once again.

Now that I'm locked up, I have decided to embrace these feelings with my heart & soul. And now, my world has gotten a lot bigger. And a whole lot brighter.

My roommate was the one who let me read the Black & Pink newsletters and I'm very thankful that he did that.

The only thing left is to tell you my name. I really don't like my real name all that much so my alias is Dani. I'm 37 and I'm Bi. This is my coming out letter.

Respect yourself,
Dani



OCTOBER 11

Stand for Something

I received your most recent newsletter and I want to thank you so very much. What I enjoy most is that you stand for something. In fact you stand on some of the most progressive principles relating to our present age.

It is my firm belief that the Prison Industrial Complex is a unique phenomenon in human history. Nothing quite like it has ever existed in the annals of history. It is a cruel and inhumane creature and is a profit driven blight upon the human landscape. Truly its obsolescence is obvious to all who are liberal in their compassion towards other people.

I also unite with the LGBT community. For all who cry about class oppression or racial slights but feel no compunction about discriminating against someone because of their sexual preference let me be the first to call you a hypocrite and confirm my stand with my Queer family.

I love your art, poems, and articles, but most of all I love you "Black & Pink" for being a unifying forum for an oppressed minority (LGBT Community) within the warehouses of an exploitative Prison Industrial Complex here in the US. I have every intention of joining the abolitionist movement upon my release.

Peace,
Martin M.

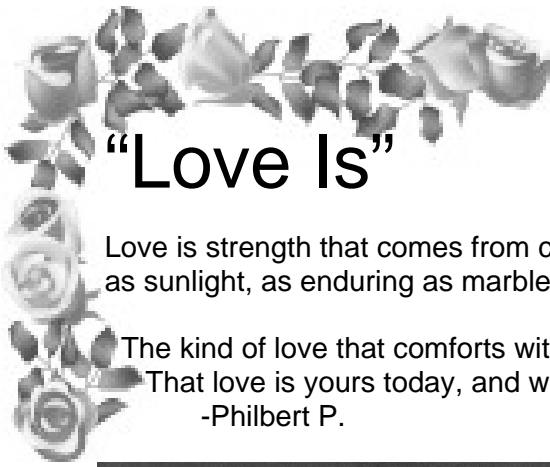
I enjoy being me

Hey everybody,

My name is Miley, I just wanted everyone to know that I did read my first B&P Newsletter - and I loved it! Fantastic, how everyone was so happy and thrilled to establish their voice and opinion. I am Trans/gender, and happy to be such. But when people say "there's a faggot" or they ask me "are you a homosexual?" I say no, I'm not. I'm different. Because using such words a lot of times disrespects us. So I always tell people "I'm different."

Then some people ask me "Why'd you turn gay?" Because a lot of people think that a lot of us turn this way because we have been sexually assaulted or molested at a younger age. This is not true. I did this because of loneliness. Plus, I enjoy being me, I enjoy being the woman I became. My husband is a great guy/man! But he hides and does not want no one to know. I do not like that. But I deal with it. What I'm trying to say is: Be You, Be Yourself, be proud of who you are. Because we're all beautiful. I love all of you, even though I don't know you physically, but spiritually I feel like I do. Keep Sweet, kiss, kiss! Thanks for everyone's inspiration and love.

Heart,
Miley, Pennsylvania



"Love Is"

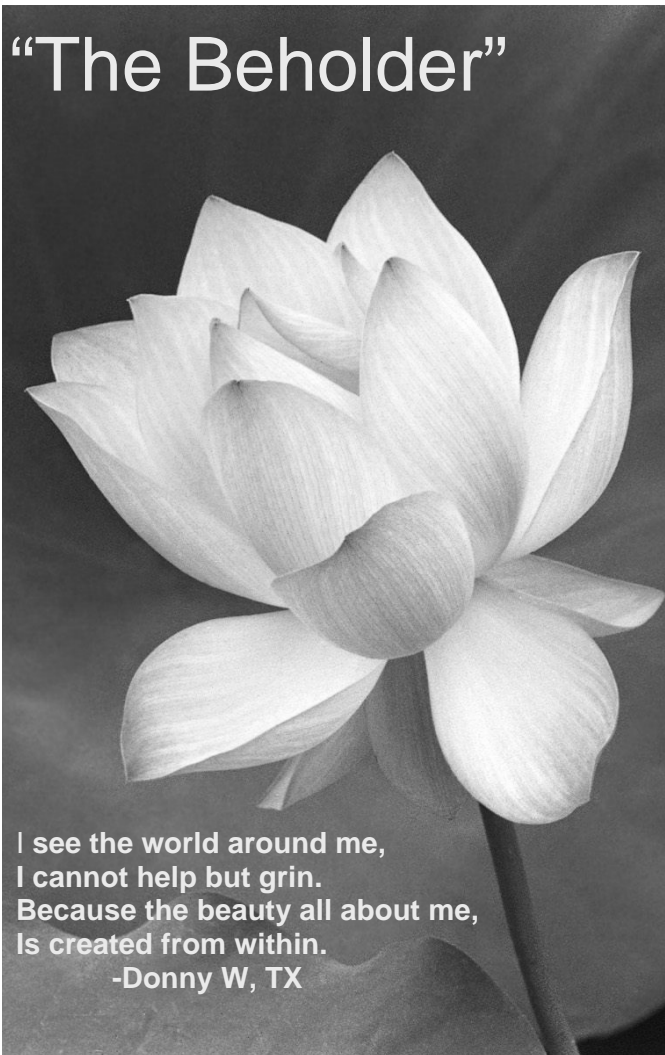
Love is strength that comes from commitment combined with gentleness that comes from caring. As warm as sunlight, as enduring as marble...That is love!

The kind of love that comforts with its gentleness, that supports with its strength...

That love is yours today, and will be forever.

-Philbert P.

"The Beholder"



I see the world around me,
I cannot help but grin.
Because the beauty all about me,
Is created from within.

-Donny W, TX

"Why Try"

Surrounded by corruption

Evil and hatred TRIES to drag me towards destruction
Phoniness and fakeness TRIES to make my mind malfunction

Blindness TRIES to over cloud my vision

I close my eyes as my mind TRIES to escape prison

WHY doesn't death want me livin

WHY does the devil thrive off the pain I am givin

WHY am I dieing to live when I am promised to die

The weak TRIES to hide their tears, real thugs aint scared to cry

The weak TRIES to be strong, while I am strong at being weak

WHY are my haters so mad that they dont want me freed

My feet stay on the ground, and my head to the sky

I don't question GOD, but that doesn't stop me from wondering WHY

Dedicated to: All those who can relate

Sheila W. AKA "O" Mountain View Ad Seg

"Unnoticed"

The water flows from me,

My tears will not be seen.

-Donny W, TX

"Alone"

Many, many years ago I had a dream. A beautiful dream. A wonderful dream. I have almost forgotten my dream- but I had one, many, many years ago. It was there in front of me, bright like the noon sun- my dream. Then, one day I awoke, a wall of razor wire surrounding me, pinning me in. Between me and my dream. Hiding my dream. Leaving me alone, without any dreams. Walls of bars and steel rising high above me, smothering my dreams, until it touched the sky, destroying my dream, leaving me to drown in my tears- alone. I lay on my narrow bunk, night after night, alone, dreamless. The silence at night is deafening, the roar by day I cannot hear. I am alone. Lonely. I need someone. Someone to help me lighten this darkness, to help me dispel this night, to help me through this emptiness. But no one hears my cries, my pleas. I am alone.
By Mavourneen, Georgia

We are human beings too

Dear Friends,

I must start by saying, Thank you to everyone who contributes to the Black & Pink projects. Thank you for your dedication, perseverance, and hard work. Also I'd especially like to thank the person or persons whose dream or idea it was to create Black & Pink. I love the Black & Pink Newsletter (not only because pink is my favorite color :). I hope to contribute once I am released.

My story isn't much different from the many I've read in the pages of the Black & Pink Newsletters. I knew there was something different about me from a very early age even if I didn't know the words for it. My journey from peculiarity to confusion to awareness back to confusion and finally acceptance is, in a way, all our stories. We are survivors to a certain degree even though our struggle still continues. I will not lose hope of the day when a person is not judged for the color of their skin, their God or no god they believe, their sex or the sex they love. I truly believe that day will come.

For me one of the biggest impediments is all these labels we have for ourselves in our community. I've been locked up for 12 years. What's up with all these labels? **I am what I am, I don't need a name for it because I am Me.** I want to be treated with equality not because of who I am or what I am, but because I Am. I just think all these labels people have for themselves clouds the whole picture. Life is more than a personal ad, which is what it is starting to sound like when people start rattling off all those acronyms and labels. Can't we find just one word or one label to have solidarity under? My dream is equality, not a collection of labels looking for a Saturday Night hook up, you all know what I mean? ;o Let's get real with ourselves and the world around us.

We are human beings too, Damn it!!

One final thought before I close. I'm in prison because of the bad choices I made. Am I a good person? I try to be, I want to be. The bottom line is no matter the crime we are still human beings and should be treated humanely which isn't always the case. It's sad in a country as great as ours crimes against humanity happen every day in our nations jails and prisons. Any news reporter doesn't need to go any further than their local jail or state or federal prison to find a tragic story of crimes against humanity. That is what people on the outside need to be aware of. Thank you.

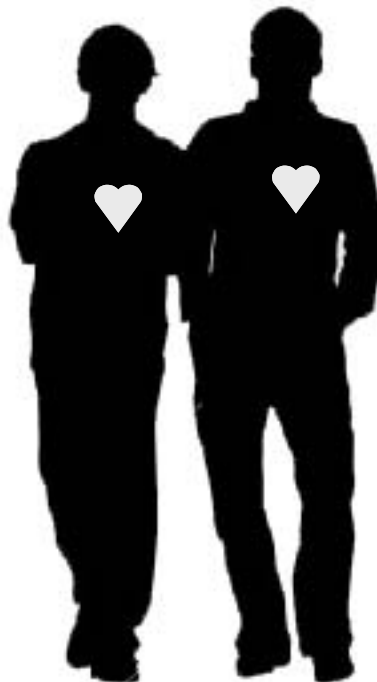
Peace and Love,
Savannah, Florida



"Let it Be"

I have a heart
Full of love
But they don't care
They merely judge.
It doesn't matter
For whom you feel.
As long as you both
Know it's real.
Straight or curved,
Gay or not,
We're after all
A melting pot.
It's not about fighting
Or defending a stance.
It's what's in your heart,
Not what's in your pants.
So let the LGQBT
Individuals be!

-Shaylanna aka Paul



"Dad's Vinyl"

You left your dad's old records
In the backseat of your car
Because you hated your dad.

The sun warped them into bowls, and

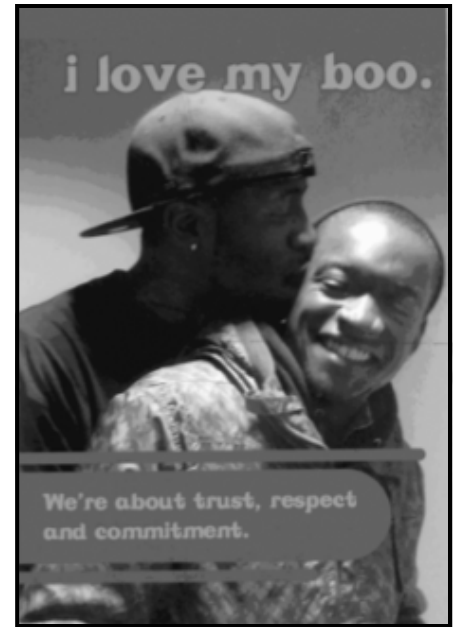
You invited me over
For a bowl of soup.

-Shaylanna aka Paul



"My Reality"

At it's inception I know I was in for a fight-
being both gay and Black.
Some idiot called it a double whammy-
but there's a clause in my contract that says...
"by all means, ignore idiots, bigots, and degenerates."
So...they can kiss my...better yet-
They can all go to purgatory on a fully fueled rocket ship.
I've had to continually fend off hateful sistas and brothas-
in my quest to be me.
It's a shame- one has to defend, define, and explain-
What it means to be Gay and Black.
I have an alligator's skin by now-
insults bounce off of my mental like water running down a ducks' back.
I didn't choose to be the way that I am-
But I am choosing to celebrate who I am.
Although I love some him, he or she-
I am far more dynamic than the things that give me raging erections or a pulsating anus.
I am fascinated by political science, theology, indigenous Afrikan culture, And...
I speak Dutch and Swahili fluently- Self taught too.
By the way- my gayness in no way hinders my ability to kick your ass if you see fit to "try me"- ask around!!!
I am me-
Proud to be Black and proud to be Gay.



-Mr. Patrice D., Illinois



Give Back to Black & Pink

*Send your contribution to:
Black and Pink-Volunteer (full address p12)*

Many prisoners have written to us seeking ways to give back as a way of saying "Thanks!". The "free-world" leadership circle thinks that is awesome, and has come up with a few ways you can contribute to keeping Black & Pink in motion!

- **Create "Thank You for Donating" cards we can send to our donors!**
We will send your card, or a copy of your card, on to our donors so that they know their money is appreciated. Donors make the newsletter happen!
Feel free to get creative or expressive. The nicer-looking, the better!
- **Send us stamps!**
Are you able to and interested in sharing your "wealth"? Stamps sent to us will be used to send mail to other prisoners, or direct to low-income prisoners in some states!
- **Send us testimonials**
Many of you already do this, and we post your stories on our website to demonstrate the power of our family. Show the world that Black & Pink can make a difference!

Transgender and Christian

Dearest Brothers, Sisters, and B&P Family,

Here's the deal, I was cursed to be born male- well, I am decidedly male body with male reproductive organs, swagger and a bassy male voice and hairy assed body. Nevertheless, I was born with a female soul.

First, I hooked up with a transgender sister, I was her "husband." Then I flipped the script, and got into dudes even though I never was before. And then I began arching my eyebrows, shaving all over, wearing make up, etc, and saw how sexy I looked...Ah! I was hooked. And all the compliments on my bedroom skills and natural beauty? Well, I ate that up. Furthermore, I began to see aspects of my soul in new light and come to realize, I am very feminine inside. Something I never realized before. I've always been sensitive, but that is only a fraction of what I mean.

For 10 years I've lived that way, but am very depressed 'cuz my soul is incongruous with my body/organs. Furthermore, I'm a Bible believing Christian who yearns to be a minister (youth ministry/counselor). But I struggle because there are places where the Bible says homosexuality and transgenderism is sexually immoral and wicked. But damn it, I didn't choose to be born an Effing male!! I'm so screwed up inside. If I could get on the hormones and get a sex change and shipped to the woman's unit where I can live as the woman I damn well should've been born as, I could love myself again and be comfortable in my body. But Texas is not trying to hear that s- - t! I want to sue, but I have neither the legal acumen, nor the \$! I would love someone to help me get a lawsuit on TDCJ-ID to try and get a sex change and (or at least) hormone treatment. I can't even grow my hair out, wear make up in here, or alter my commissary bought clothing, nor engage in homosexual relations without threat of disciplinary, which in turn would cause me to lose all my privileges (contact visits, GED classes, church services, commissary, custody level, etc.) Although, presently I'm in Seg for poss. of a weapon so I have none of that anyway, except commissary, when I have \$.

Anyway, I have no one to fellowship with in here, no friends. The "girls" hate me for my religious beliefs and because I vacillate between presenting myself as either male or female because I can't just be female like I want. And the males hate me 'cuz, in their eyes, I'm a sissy/fag, and confused.

I, in fact, know exactly what/who I want to be. I am not confused. It is just that TDC policy forbids me from being me, not to mention my freaking religion. I love Jesus very much, but it freaks me out to think I might go to Hell. I can't help who/what I am or feel inside. What am I supposed to do, continue to suppress the female in me, and put on my man mask, and be miserable and depressed 'till God puts me out of my misery!?

And I'm so lonely. I'm such a pretty flower, inside and out, yet I'm all alone, save for Mom and G-pa (Paw-paw). They can't be a mate/companion though! Please pray for me, and I love you all! Love, hugs, Kisses, Prayers, & Kitty Kats :) Ms. Harlequinne Mystique, Texas



From Rev. Jason Lydon:

To Ms. Harlequinne Mystique and everyone else,

I am so sorry and sad that the Christian message you have received is one of exclusion and hatred, that is not the message Jesus would have wanted anyone to ever receive from his followers. Specifically to the question of gender and sexuality, I believe that Jesus is incredibly affirming of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. In Paul's letter to the Galatians he quotes Jesus as saying, "There is neither Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female." Jesus intended for all people, no matter how they fit in society, to feel his love and the love of God.

For Robert Goss, a former Catholic priest and brilliant queer theologian, "On Easter, God made Jesus queer in solidarity with us... It is the particularity of Jesus the Christ, his particular identification with the sexually oppressed, that enables us to understand Christ as black, queer, female, Asian, African, a South American peasant, a transsexual, and so forth. It is the scandal of particularity that is the message of Easter, the particular context of struggle where God's solidarity is practiced." Jesus, then, is not only standing with us as LGBT people, he has a queerness of his own and it did not stop developing or growing with the generation of his first disciples and followers. Jesus' queerness has expanded and grown throughout the movement of Christianity. I like to think that Jesus' queerness is available to each person in prison who wishes to connect with the Jesus message, to each LGBTQ kid on the street who is homeless and needs solace to get through the night.

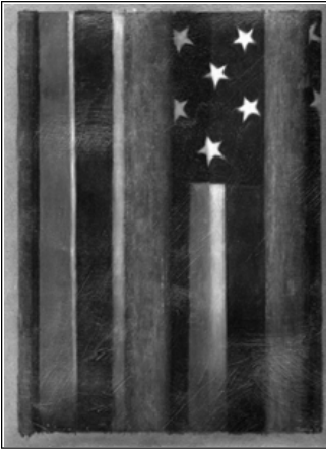
We have resources available for folks who are interested in seeing more reflections on religion and LGBTQ

CRISIS AND RESPONSE

Art in Juried Exhibit

Red Sun Press, a worker collective print shop in Jamaica Plain, MA put out this call for artwork: *In the midst of unprecedented and grave problems in the world around us, artists and communities are responding with new, urgent energy. Whether raging out loud or searching deeply inward, our muses are rising to the challenge of turbulent geopolitical, economic, and environmental crises. Red Sun Press invites submissions of work for a show addressing the critical problems of our day and how we perceive, confront, rationalize or reject them.*

On September 24-25, 2011, the following items submitted by Black and Pink Artists were shown!!



Artist: Tony Black

Title: Open Your Eyes

Significance: The image depicts the American flag existing behind the iron bars of the American prison industrial complex. I created this image to address the ignorance, and utter blindness regarding the majority of the general public in our country. How is it that Americans don't see the hypocrisy of invading/punishing other countries to spread "freedom and democracy" when America holds 2.3 million people in its prisons? How is it that Americans accept the irrational fear-mongering, and accept being hateful, and accept revenge rather than justice? How is it that Americans don't see the reality that the top 1% rules the rest of us in law, property, and liberty?



Artist: David Flint

Title: Human Race

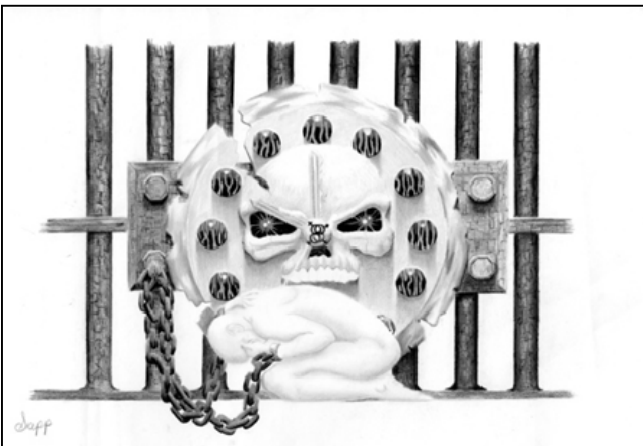
Significance: An inquiry into where we are headed as a society



Artist: David Flint

Title: Rapunzel

Significance: No face needs to be presented for the face that we all suffer and feel restricted or imprisoned at some point in our life.



Artist: Troy Sapp

Title: The Bars

Significance: In this image, a prisoner is literally chained to the prison bars, while a decaying clock with the face of a skeleton and a key to tell the time represents a lifetime passing by while the prisoner is in chains.

Black & Pink Art at Papercut and in Article!!



papercut
zine
library

[zine: booklet on any topic, fact or fiction, made and distributed at low to no cost!!! You can make one too!!]

From August 8 through September 17th, the walls of the Papercut Zine Library in Somerville, MA displayed many works of Black and Pink Artists as well as art sent to the Boston Anarchist Black Cross ! A closing party brought music, food and friends together to celebrate the art!

We were fortunate to get a great article written about Black and Pink, the art project, and LGBTQ prison issues in the Boston Weekly Dig free print and online magazine! The article was posted online on August 29th, and the reporter visited the exhibit and took pictures of all of the artwork and posted them along with the article! Now thousands of people have heard of our project, and know more about the issues! *Here's an excerpt from the article:*

"They call it the 'homo bin,'" Jason Lydon recounts of his stints in segregated cell blocks for gay, bi and trans prisoners. Arrested along with 100 compatriots protesting the School of the Americas near Fort Benning, GA in November 2002, Lydon received a six month sentence that took him through four Georgia county jails and a Massachusetts federal prison from February through August 2003.

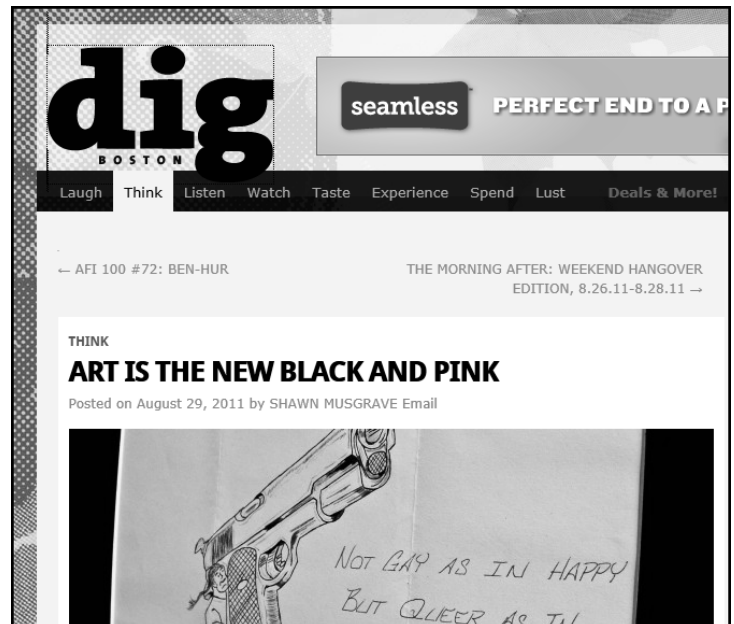
During that time Lydon weathered treatment similar to that faced by many LGBTQ prisoners: sexual assault and harassment by correctional staff and fellow inmates alike, their sexual orientation leveraged by the prosecution to sway juries, all on top of the deplorable baseline conditions in which heterosexual convicts likewise find themselves.

Now a minister of the Community Church of Boston in Copley, Reverend Lydon experienced firsthand the glaring lack of support for LGBTQ individuals serving time, and initially tried to keep in contact with those he had forged connections with during his sentence. "Eventually I was writing to over 35 people all on my own, and it was just too much to do," recalls Lydon. "So I invited people over for a potluck and tricked them into writing letters or licking stamps."

..."We also use the art installations [like the current exhibit up at the Papercut Zine Library in Somerville through September, where I saw the Black and Pink works for myself] as a public outreach and education tool," continues organizer Reed Miller.

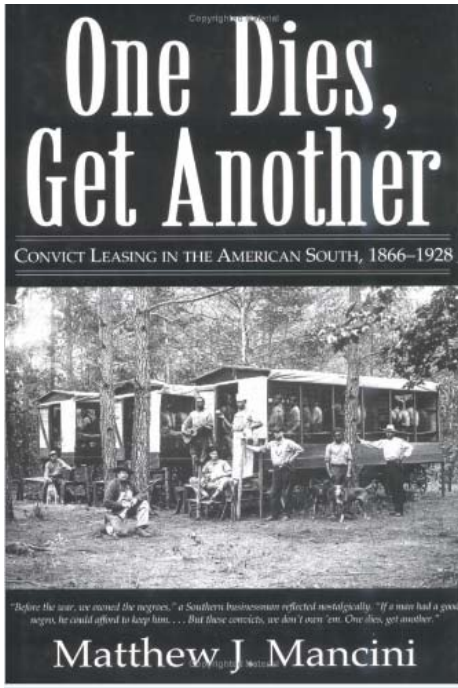
"It opens an opportunity to reflect on how messed up it is that people so talented are wasting away behind bars, and what steps might be taken to dismantle the prison-industrial complex."

Lydon and Miller are adamant on that last point: Black and Pink is not a service agency or art organization and it shies away from any "prison reform" label. "We recognize how racist and classist the system is, and how particularly the LGBTQ inmate population suffers in incarceration," Miller explains. "Many folks are in prison for things like personal drug use or sex work that shouldn't reasonably be criminal acts." Lydon likewise describes the targeting of transgender women by police, who pick up trans individuals under "suspicion" of soliciting paid sex...



Fire & Smoke: Bo Brown and Prison Abolition, Part 2 of 5

Continued from September 2011 Issue: Though George Jackson placed the origins of the prison abolition movement with the Black Panther Party, former Panther, prison activist and professor at the UC, Santa Cruz Angela Davis places prison abolition in the movement toward "abolition democracy" which follows the



movements against slavery, lynching, and segregation.(9) The links between slavery and prison go back to the period immediately after the Civil War, when the states ratified the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution which prohibited slavery "except as a punishment for crime."(10) After Reconstruction, southern states enacted Black Codes which criminalized the emancipated black population. Prisoners were then rented out cheaply to white businessmen in what became known as the "Convict Lease System."(11) In Louisiana, a former slave plantation was donated to the state which built a maximum security prison on the land, where the 80% black population still harvests sugar cane.(12) Director of the National Campaign to Restore Voting Rights, Robin Templeton continues the comparison saying both slavery and modern incarceration "decimate life by stealing people from their communities, forcing families apart, and converting human beings into disposable [labor]."(13) Today, African-Americans comprise almost one-half of the over two million people incarcerated in America, despite being only twelve percent of the population, demonstrating the enduring racialization of the prison system. (14) Brown University Professor Joy James argues that "the state through legal [documents], the academic through her scholarship, and the prisoner from his cell, all assert the presence of slavery in the United States as a post-emancipation reality."(15) Though differences exist between the two

institutions, both have bred fierce opposition movements intent on dismantling the systemic injustice.

To place Bo Brown directly in this lineage of abolition, she could be seen as a modern hybrid of Harriet Tubman and John Brown. Harriet Tubman, as an escaped slave and abolitionist, took bold and often militant action to help lead her fellow slaves to freedom. More incidentally, like Bo Brown, Tubman often dressed up as a man to carry out her clandestine actions. John Brown, as a white abolitionist, used his relative privilege to tirelessly and sometimes violently fight the oppression being brought to bear on communities society had deemed inferior. Both in and out of the Brigade, Brown exhibits these characteristics in her struggle against the prison-industrial complex.

After serving seven months of her one-year sentence, Bo Brown was paroled back to Seattle where she immediately got involved in anti-prison work as well as the lesbian and feminist movements. She helped start a group called Women Out Now that helped "bridge those gaps between the women inside [prison] and the community" by bringing the women's children to visit them in prison, sending them literature, and bringing people from the community to talk about what was happening on the outside. She also advocated for the rebels in Attica as they faced new charges stemming from the uprising, and worked on the SunFighter newsletter for Washington prisoners.(16) *Parts 3 through 5 in upcoming issues! Stay tuned!*

NOTES:

(9) Eduardo Mendieta, "Introduction" in Davis, Angela Y. *Abolition Democracy: Beyond Empire, Prisons, and Torture*. (New York: Seven Stories Press, 2005) 16.

(10) U.S. Constitution, Thirteenth Amendment, Section 1.

(11) Mendieta, 9.

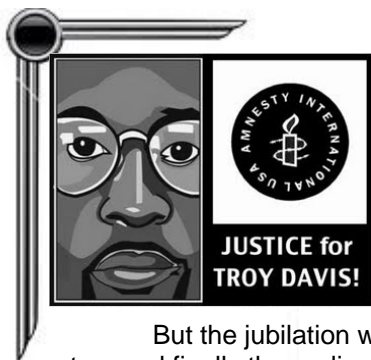
(12) Jimmy O'Halligan, *Three Black Panthers and the Last Slave Plantation*, 2005

(13) Robin Templeton, "She Who Believes in Freedom: Young Women Defy the Prison Industrial Complex" in *The Fire This Time* ed. Vivien Labaton and Dawn Lundy Martin. (New York: Anchor Books, 2004) 256.

(14) David Cole, *No Equal Justice*. (New York: The New Press, 1999), 4.

(15) Joy James, "Introduction" in James, Joy, ed. *The New Abolitionists: (Neo)Slave Narratives and Contemporary Prison Writings*. (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2005) xxiv.

(16) Brown, interview.



RIP Troy Davis, Executed on Wednesday Sept 21st at 11:08pm.

From The Guardian on Weds. Sept. 21st at 7:24pm: The execution of Troy Davis was delayed temporarily on Wednesday night as the US supreme court considered a last-minute appeal just as he was due to be put to death by lethal injection. As the first news came in at the Jackson prison that houses death row, a huge cheer erupted from a crowd of more than 500 protesters that had amassed on the other side of the road. Davis's supporters kissed each other and threw placards which read "Not in my name" into the air.

But the jubilation was short-lived. Talk of a reprieve from the US supreme court quickly gave way to rumors of a stay, and finally the realization that the court had only ordered a temporary delay as it considered the matter. The mood then grew more somber as the waiting game that has now been going on for years with Davis resumed. Until the delay it seemed almost certain that Davis would be executed. Earlier on Wednesday, Georgia's supreme court had rejected a last-ditch appeal by Davis's lawyers over the 1989 murder of off-duty policeman Mark MacPhail, for which Davis had been convicted despite overwhelming evidence that the conviction is unreliable. A Butts County superior court judge had also declined to stop the execution. Davis's attorneys had filed an appeal challenging ballistics evidence linking Davis to the crime, and eyewitness testimony identifying Davis as the killer. The White House declined to comment on the case, saying: "It is not appropriate for the president of the United States to weigh in on specific cases."

At the maximum security prison in Jackson where the execution was scheduled to take place, busloads of Troy Davis supporters from his home town of Savannah came in to register their anger and despair at what they all agree is the planned judicial killing of an innocent man. Edward DuBose, a leader of the Georgia branch of the NAACP, said it was not an execution, but a "murder".

The protest heard from Martina Correia, Davis's eldest sister, who delivered a statement from about 20 family members gathered around her. She was heavily critical of what she described as the defiance of the state of Georgia and its inability to admit that it had made a mistake. She pointed out that the state's parole board had vowed in 2007 that no execution would take place if there was any doubt. "Every year there is more and more doubt yet still the state pushes for an execution," she said. Correia, who has cancer, struggled to her feet in honour of her brother, just a few hours from his probable death. But she exhorted people not to give up. "if you can get millions of people to stand up against this you can end the death penalty. We shouldn't have to live in a state that executes people when there's doubt."

DuBose gave an account of a 30-minute conversation he had with Davis on death row on Tuesday night. "Troy wanted me to let you know – keep the faith. The fight is bigger than him." DuBose said that whether the execution went ahead or not, the fight would continue. He said Davis wants his case to set an example "that the death penalty in this country needs to end. They call it execution; we call it murder." Hundreds of people gathered outside the prison, many wearing T-shirts that said: "I am Troy Davis". The activist Al Sharpton said: "What is facing execution tonight is not just the body of Troy Davis, but the spirit of due justice in the state of Georgia."

Larry Coz, the executive director of Amnesty in the US, which has led the international campaign for clemency, said demonstrations were happening outside US embassies in France, Mali, Hong Kong, Peru, Germany and the UK. "We will not stop fighting until we live in a world where no state thinks it can kill innocent people." After winning three delays since 2007, Davis lost an appeal for clemency this week when the Georgia pardons board denied his request, despite serious doubts about his guilt.

Some witnesses who testified against Davis at trial later recanted, and others who did not testify came forward to say another man did it. But a federal judge dismissed those accounts as "largely smoke and mirrors" after a hearing Davis was granted last year to argue for a new trial, which he did not win. Davis refused a last meal. He planned to spend his final hours meeting with friends, family and supporters.

Davis has received support from hundreds of thousands of people, including a former FBI director, former president Jimmy Carter and Pope Benedict XVI. Parliamentarians and government ministers from the Council of Europe, the EU's human rights watchdog, had earlier called for Davis's sentence to be commuted.

Renate Wohlwend of the council's parliamentary assembly said: "To carry out this irrevocable act now would be a terrible mistake, which could lead to a tragic injustice". The US supreme court gave him an unusual opportunity to prove his innocence last year, but his attorneys failed to convince a judge he did not do it. State and federal courts have repeatedly upheld his conviction. Prosecutors have no doubt they charged the right person, and MacPhail's family lobbied the pardons board Monday to reject Davis's clemency appeal. The board refused to stop the execution a day later. "He has had ample time to prove his innocence," said MacPhail's widow, Joan MacPhail-Harris. "And he is not innocent."

Spencer Lawton, the district attorney who secured Davis's conviction in 1991, said he was embarrassed for the judicial system that the execution has taken so long. "What we have had is a manufactured appearance of doubt which has taken on the quality of legitimate doubt itself. And all of it is exquisitely unfair," said Lawton, who retired as Chatham County's head prosecutor in 2008. "The good news is we live in a civilized society where questions like this are decided based on fact in open and transparent courts of law, and not on street corners."

Davis supporters pushed the pardons board to reconsider his case. They also asked Savannah prosecutors to block the execution, although Chatham County district attorney Larry Chisolm said in a statement he was powerless to withdraw an execution order for Davis issued by a state superior court judge. "We appreciate the outpouring of interest in this case; however, this matter is beyond our control," Chisolm said.

The Queer Boy Band

The *So Queer Record Company* recently held auditions across the country to find four singers to form a new band. The four guys chosen are now super-stars but can you work out each guy's previous day job, his age (19,20,21,22) and home town?

1. Greg is exactly two years younger or older than the guy from Cleveland who used to be a truck driver.
2. Either Darren or the guy from Seattle (who may or may not be Patrick) used to deliver pizzas.
3. The guy from New York is younger than Daniel but older than the one who used to be a carpenter.
4. The 22 year old from San Francisco isn't the one who used to be a waiter.

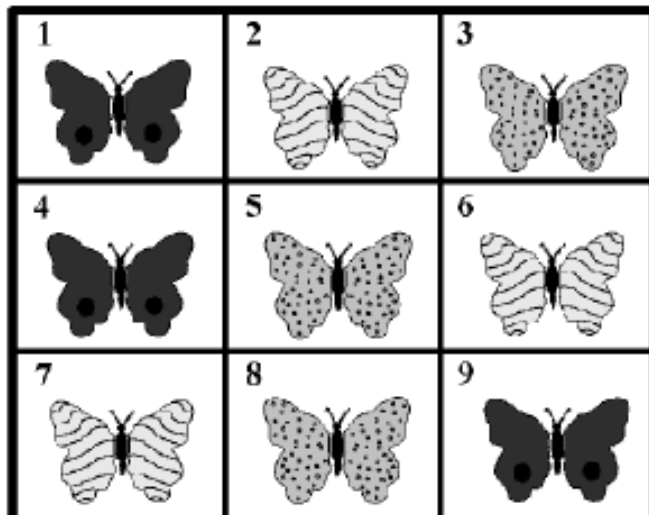
Name	Job	City	Age



Butterfly Collection

Professor Jose Paz lives in South America where he acquired a number of fine butterfly specimens. The nine butterflies pictured are of the following varieties: The Double-Spotted (#1, 4 and 9), the Greater-Striped (#2, 6 and 7) and the Many-Speckled (#3, 5 and 8). Can you match the position of each butterfly with its country of origin and the name of the fellow enthusiast it was purchased from?

1. Professor Paz acquired two specimens of the same variety of butterfly from fellow enthusiasts in Bolivia and Brazil.
2. The butterfly from Peru is pictured either immediately above or immediately below the one purchased from Mr Peiro.
3. One of the Greater-Striped butterflies is from Chile and is pictured to the right of and immediately next to the butterfly obtained from Mrs Fernandez.
4. The Double-Spotted butterfly bought from Mr De Falla is pictured immediately next to a Many-Speckled butterfly (acquired in Ecuador).
5. The Many-Speckled butterfly from Paraguay is pictured immediately next to the butterfly from Bolivia. The specimen purchased from Mrs Gilberto is pictured at position No 6.
6. The butterfly from Argentina is pictured immediately above the one purchased from Mr Bonares (which is immediately to the left of the one bought from Mr Gomez) and all three butterflies are of different varieties.
7. The butterfly purchased from Mr Valdúz and the butterfly from Venezuela are of different varieties and one is pictured immediately below the other.
8. The butterfly from Uruguay is on the same vertical line but not immediately above or below the one from Mr Mendez (which is on the same horizontal line but not immediately next to the butterfly

[illegible]

Newsletter Subscriptions (start or stop)

Newsletter Submissions

Request Free "Outside" Pen-Pal Ad Form

"Prisoner 2 Prisoner" Pen-Pal Listing
(for prisoners with full permission only)

Ideas for Black & Pink and Feedback

Request Erotica

Request Religious Support

Volunteer! (Send us thank you cards to
send to donors or stamps as a donation!)

Advocacy Request (Details about your situa-
tion, how a group of people making calls or
writing letters can help)

Black and Pink— Newsletter Subscriptions

Black and Pink— Newsletter Submissions

Black and Pink— Pen Pal

Black and Pink— P2P

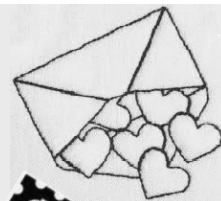
Black and Pink— Developing Leadership

Black and Pink— Erotica
****New September 2011****

Black and Pink— Religion
****New September 2011****

Black and Pink— Volunteer
****New October 2011****

Black and Pink— Advocacy
****New October 2011****



Write to B&P!

Black and Pink—[Insert Topic from Above]
c/o Community Church of Boston
565 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

Write to B&P Art!

*****New Address as of January 2011!*****

Black & Pink Art c/o Reed Miller
200 Amory Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130



LEGAL: Consider writing to Lambda Legal for support or referrals with legal issues that you are having. "Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work."

Lambda Legal, National Office 120 Wall Street, Suite 1500, New York, NY 10005, 212-809-8585

Another resource to turn to, if you can afford the subscription (\$24 yearly, payable with new stamps), is Prison Legal News. This resource was co-started by a former gay prisoner, Ed Mead, though now it is run by Paul Wright. You can reach them by writing to: **Prison Legal News, P.O. Box 2420, West Brattleboro, VT 05303**

SURVIVORS: Just Detention International provides support for prisoners who are survivors of sexual abuse. Write them at the legal address below for a packet. Each packet includes an introductory letter, a list of local resources, fact sheets, publications about recovery from sexual abuse, and a letter of hope from another survivor.
Ms. Chris Daley, Esq., 3325 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 340, Los Angeles, CA 90010

No.	Country	Name
6	Chile	Gilberto
7	Brazil	Bonares
8	Ecuador	Gomez
9	Uruguay	De Falla

No.	Country	Name
1	Peru	Garcia
2	Bolivia	Valdiz
3	Paraguay	Mendez
4	Argentina	Pelro
5	Venezuela	Fernandez

Name	Job	City	Age
Daniel	truck driver	Cleveland	21
Darren	pizza delivery	San Francisco	22
Greg	carpenter	Seattle	19
Patrick	waiter	New York	20

Puzzle Answers!